

Public-Private Partnerships/Community Outreach

The goal of community outreach is to assist in the development of library programs and services for non-users, the under-served, and people with special needs. Communities are living things that are constantly growing and changing. To meet the diverse needs of any community, the library must keep in touch with these changes and tailor services to meet ever-changing needs. In addition to providing needed service to community members, community outreach provides a unique opportunity to improve public image within the community and offers excellent collaboration opportunities with community leaders, groups, and organizations that will enhance overall library service.

The Miami-Dade Public Library System understands the value of partnerships to leverage and to deliver successful services and programs, along with building powerful relationships. Drawing on that experience, the library has actively engaged community partners by identifying their needs and embracing a shared purpose. The library system is motivated to court potential partners for a variety of reasons, including the opportunity to:

- Attract new customers, especially in traditionally hard-to-reach market segments
- Secure grants that require collaboration
- Garner support of government officials
- Reduce costs
- Increase visibility and understanding of the library in the community
- Establish the library as a leading community organization
- Increase the base of volunteers
- Expand programming capabilities

Library partners come from a variety of sectors including Cultural & Educational Organizations, Cities & Municipalities, County Government, Corporations, Faith-based Organizations, Media, Service Organizations.

Corporate Partners

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)

www.aarp.com

- AARP Drive Alive: AARP safe driving course has been popular with many adults who wish to brush up on their driving skills and learn the latest rules of the road. The AARP offers classes at the North Dade and West Dade Regional libraries.
- AARP Tax Assistance: The largest free, volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service available to taxpayers with low- and moderate-income, with special attention to those ages 60 and older. There are many kinds of volunteer opportunities— from tax volunteers to greeters as well as communications and technology. The AARP offers the program at many library branches.

IBM Corporation

www.kidsmartearlylearning.org

The Library System received an IBM KidSmart Early Learning grant that provided 75 Young Explorer Learning Centers for its branches. Each Center has a computer housed in brightly colored, child-friendly "Little Tikes" furniture. It is equipped with award-winning educational software that gives new opportunities for children to learn and explore concepts in math, science and language.

MetLife Foundation

www.metlife.com/metlife-foundation/

Simon Mall

www.simon.com

Simon Mall operates the Falls Shopping Center which has partnered with the Library System on various occasions to promote reading.

The Miami Dolphins Foundation

www.miamidolphins.com/community/foundation.html

The Miami Dolphins Foundation is a primary sponsor of the annual *Summer Reading* and *Teen Read Week* programs, as well as the *Children's Bookmark Contest*. The Foundation provides prizes and game tickets to children who participate in these programs.

Turnberry Associates

www.turnberry.com

Turnberry Associates operates the Aventura Mall, which has partnered with the Library System for several years to promote the *Summer Reading Program*.

Cultural & Educational Partners

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts

www.arshtcenter.org

Library staff participates in a number of activities and events at the center throughout the year. These include the Fall for the Arts Festival and Family Fest Saturdays. The Library in turn helps to promote the center's activities by placing marketing collateral throughout its branches.

ArtCenter of South Florida

www.artcentersf.org

The mission of ArtCenter of South Florida is to advance the knowledge and practice of contemporary visual arts and culture in South Florida through education, exhibition and public outreach programming and to provide affordable work-space for outstanding visual artists in all stages of career development.

Early Learning Coalition

elcmdm.org

To promote high-quality school readiness, the Coalition serves children and their families through voluntary pre-kindergarten and after school programs, thus increasing all children's chances of achieving future educational success and becoming productive members of society. The Coalition seeks to further the physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs of Miami-Dade and Monroe County children with a priority toward the ages before birth through age 5.

Florida Center for the Literary Arts at Miami Dade College

www.flcenterlitarts.com

The Library System partners with the Florida Center for the Literary Arts to present the Big READ and other literacy programs throughout its branches. One current project is the Miami City of Refuge Program that has provided Zimbabwean author Chenjerai Hove as a frequent presenter at the library over the past several months.

Florida Grand Opera

www.fgo.org/education

Florida Grand Opera (FGO) offers quality programming to the patrons of the Miami-Dade Public Library System via a literacy-through-music program. Partnering with Miami-Dade and Broward County Public Libraries, FGO Teaching Artists use the power of music to bring books to life and promote the joys of literacy!

Greater Miami Youth Symphony

gmys.org

Greater Miami Youth Symphony (GMYS) is an independent five-level orchestra program dedicated to training young musicians between 5 and 18 years of age. GMYS has continuously succeeded in presenting high caliber performances to South Florida audiences. GMYS has presented several performances at library branches throughout the community. This gives parents and students exposure to the high caliber performance and learning opportunities.

Knight Foundation

www.knightfoundation.org

Miami-Dade Public Library System received a grant from the James S. and John L. Knight Foundation to establish the YOUmedia Miami space—building on the role of libraries as places of innovation and exploration by teaching teens to use technology. Also made possible through the generous support of the Knight Foundation was the 2012 Young Adult Writer-in-Residence program, which was designed to encourage teens, 12-18, in the creative writing process during a three-month residency, which ran from September through November 2012. The author mentored 20 teens, assisting them to develop their writing skills and provided critique and feedback on short stories, poems, plays and novels.

Miami-Dade College

www.mdc.edu

- **Miami-Dade College North Campus**

MDPLS staffs an information table at the college's annual Children's Holiday at North event.

- **School of Entertainment & Design Technology**

The library system works in collaboration with the School of Entertainment and Design Technology to develop a curriculum that offers the skills necessary for participants of the library's YOUmedia Miami program to enter the academic degree program offered by the college. YOUmedia Miami is a 21st century youth digital media learning center at the North Dade Regional Library. This center gives young adults the opportunity to work with cutting-edge technology to create music, movies and much more, and to engage in activities that enhance their creativity and critical thinking.

- **Access Services, Miami-Dade Community College North**

The Access Services Department of MDC North Campus works to make all elements of the college accessible to students with disabilities. Access Services supports the library's Talking Books service and library staff with information and guidelines for assistive technology for persons with disabilities, in particular synthesized speech and Braille applications and devices for downloadable Talking Books.

Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition

fairexpo.com/thefair/

The library system participates in the fair by providing information on programs and services to attendees. Fairgoers can enjoy storytelling and hands-on activities. The library also assists in the promotion of the fair by distributing marketing collaterals and housing point-of-sale (POS) displays throughout its branches.

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind

miamilighthouse.com/

The Talking Books department of the Library System works with the Miami Lighthouse in a variety of capacities including:

- Braille Literacy Initiative – promoting Braille as the key to literacy for persons who are blind. Miami Lighthouse registers new clients for Talking Books; staff teaches clients how to use the Talking Books players and service; Lighthouse technology instructors teach clients how to download books.
- Annual Summer Reading Program.
- Annual Make-A-Bookmark contest for Lighthouse Blind Babies program.
- Early literacy programs for parents.

Miami Police Athletic League (Miami PAL)

miamipal.org

Members of the Miami Police Athletic League visit library branches each week to share their experiences and to encourage kids to stay in school and to make wise choices. Library staff provides books and other materials that enhance these discussions.

National Federation of the Blind, Miami-Dade County Chapter (NFB):

dfs.myflorida.com/resources/organizations/NFB-of-florida.php

Partner in the library system's Braille Literacy Initiative: promoting that Braille is the key to literacy for persons who are blind or have very low vision.

NBC Learn

www.nbclearn.com

NBC Learn is now made available to Miami-Dade County Public Library patrons. For more than 80 years, NBC News has been documenting the people, places, and events that have shaped our world. NBC Learn is an innovative resource that provides thousands of historic news reports, current events stories, original content, primary source documents, and other digital media specifically designed to help teach and engage students of all levels and abilities.

Parent to Parent of Miami

www.ptopmiami.org

Parent to Parent of Miami is a non-profit organization that provides information, educational training and support to families with children and adults who are disabled and/or have special needs. Parent to Parent has hosted workshops/programs for families in library branches, and provided sensitivity training for library staff.

The Center @ Miami-Dade College

(formerly known as the Florida Center for the Literary Arts)

www.flcenterlitarts.com

The Center at Miami Dade College promotes reading and writing throughout the year by consistently presenting high-quality literary activities open to all in South Florida. The Library System has partnered with the Center @ MDC to present the Big READ and the Miami City of Refuge Program.

The Children's Trust

www.thechildrenstrust.org

The Children's Trust has been a partner with the Library System on various projects and initiative. The library provides a place for Children's Trust project staff to train individuals who serve on special projects and at the same time learn about the many resources available at the library. The Trust brings children from many areas of the community to library programs and special events, while library staff, in turn participates in special events held by the Trust.

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe

elcmdm.org

The Library works with early care and educational providers, who receive funding from the Coalition, by providing information on early literacy resources. These resources include materials from the Jump Start program, which helps providers create storytimes and hands-on activities for children. Resources are also provided through the *Reading Ready* program, which offers materials to enhance early literacy for children zero-5.

The United Way Center for Excellence in Early Education

www.unitedway.org

The United Way strives to elevate the quality of early care and education in Miami-Dade County and nationally by serving as a model of best practices.

Tigertail Productions

www.tigertail.org

Tigertail Productions is a nationally respected organization with a sustained passionate record of creative achievement that has commissioned, presented and produced more than 500 artists in the performing and visual arts. Tigertail and the Library System work in unison to provide entertaining art programs accessible to the local community. Tigertail brings a yearly poetry workshop called Wordspeak to the Miami Beach Regional Library.

University of Florida / Miami-Dade County Extension

ifas.ufl.edu/

The University of Florida / Miami-Dade County Extension offer programs in library branches to help the community develop a greater awareness of the environment. These programs include gardening and nutrition workshops for adults and hands-on activities for children.

University of Miami (UM)

www.miami.edu

The Talking Books department is an exhibitor at the annual series of community health fairs hosted by UM DOCS and the UM Calder Library.

Faith Based Partners

The Library System provides resource to staff and members of the churches and to children who attend the camps and/or early childhood centers run by these churches.

Gospel Tabernacle Faith Deliverance Church, North Miami

Greater Love Missionary Baptist Church, Miami Gardens

New Way Fellowship Baptist Church, Miami Gardens

Government Partners

Cities and Municipalities

The Library System works with various cities and municipalities, on events throughout the year, by providing information, storytelling and hands-on activities. Such events include the *Coral Gables Farmer's Market*, *Coconut Grove Arts Festival*, *South Miami Rotary Art Festival*, *Pinecrest Earth Day Festival* and *Eggstravaganza*.

Miami-Dade County Office of the Mayor & Board of County Commissioners

www.miamidade.gov/commission/home.asp

The library system works closely with the Office of the Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners to participate in special events such as health fairs, back-to-school rallies and other projects throughout the year.

Miami-Dade County Office of Sustainability

www.miamidade.gov/oos/home.asp

The library works with the Office of Sustainability to promote best environmental practices and to create awareness of its "green" initiatives. The department has made available a special device- the Kill A WattEZ™ Electricity Usage Monitor- to help library customers monitor their electricity usage and save on their bills.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

www.dadeschools.net

At the start of each school year, library staff visits schools throughout the county to participate in open houses to promote resources and encourage parents and kids to use the library. These visits continue throughout the year for career days and at assemblies where library staff stress the importance of reading, and encourage teachers to bring students to the library for field trips and to work on projects. The Library also participates in special events such as the Parent Academy (Back to School Rally) and the Week of the Young Child celebration.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools - Museum Education Program

The Library System partners with the Miami Dade County Public Schools to provide the Museum Education Program, which gives students (K-12) an opportunity to examine and discuss art and architecture at the Main Library. Along with the Art Services Department, the Museum Educator plans tours, develops educational resource guides, and creates relevant and interesting tours of the Library's permanent collections and ongoing exhibitions. The specially designed educational resource guides emphasize the connection between art, language arts, math, science, and social studies. The program involves both on and off-site art, reading, and writing activities that reinforce the concepts explored through the Library's exhibitions and Library Collection tours.

Miami-Dade Reentry Task Force

www.miamidade.gov/corrections/reentry-unit.asp

Program Manager for Project L.E.A.D. (Literacy for Every Adult in Dade) has been invited to join the Miami-Dade Reentry Task Force, a community wide collaboration of agencies and organizations

providing reentry services to ex-offenders as they return to our community. Project L.E.A.D., an outreach service of MDPLS, is also working to bring volunteer adult literacy tutors to prisons to teach inmates to read before they leave detention.

Media Partners

Univision 23

miami.univision.com

Local Spanish language television station with strong ties to the community that offers the Library System occasional grants, free media spots and programs.

WFOR CBS 4

miami.cbslocal.com

Local English language television station with strong ties to the community that offers the Library System occasional grants, free media spots and programs.

Museum Program Partners

The Museum Partners Program is a collaboration between the Library System and Deering Estate at Cutler, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens, HistoryMiami, Miami Art Museum, Miami Children's Museum, Miami Science Museum, Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, and Zoo Miami. This partnership gives library customers the chance to enjoy these facilities for free. Customers are able to check out up to four passes each time to the attraction of their choice. This partnership has increased awareness of the resources and services available at each facility.

The library also works with each partner on specific programs and services as follows:

Deering Estate at Cutler

The library collaborates with Deering for its Fee Free PLAY Day & Book Nook by the Bay programs, which opens the rich resources of the estate to the public for family story time, on-site eco-arts and crafts, science programs and more. The Library System works with Deering to highlight resources that enhances the programs. The Library is also an annual exhibitor at the Deering Seafood Festival.

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens

www.fairchildgarden.org

The Library participates in a number of activities at Fairchild, including the Mango, Chocolate, Edible Garden and Orchid festivals. Fairchild's staff also presents educational programs in library branches to encourage the community to better understand tropical plants and appreciate and value biodiversity.

Miami Children's Museum

There is a vigorous exchange of programs and information between the Library and the Children's Museum. This includes the provision of materials and storytellers for events hosted by the Children's Museum (Dr. Seuss' Birthday, Wonderful Wednesdays, All Kids Included) and by the Library System for its annual *International Art of Storytelling Festival* and weekly storytelling programs and activities.

Miami Science Museum

The Library System works with the Science Museum on several program partnerships that allow both facilities to showcase their resources. Library staff participates in special events at the museum and museum staff has conducted various programs at the library to promote science and technology.

Museum Partners Display Program

The Art Services Department of the Library System is working with each of the partners on a *Display Program*. This partnership will present visually engaging displays in branches that may not ordinarily have an exhibition and will allow the partners to highlight specific areas of interest to an audience that may not otherwise visit their facilities.

Service Based Partners

Ability Explosion

(Coordinated through Miami-Dade County- Office of ADA Coordination)

Ability Explosion is an annual event that celebrates the abilities of people living with disabilities by encouraging their acceptance by the community at large and promoting innovations that helps to improve their lives. The Talking Books department of the Library participates in this event each year to highlight the many resources available for individuals with disability.

Alliance for Aging/Aging Resource Center (ARC)

www.allianceforaging.org

The Library is a collaborating partner with the Alliance for Aging/Aging Resource Center (ARC) and cooperates with them to educate and enhance ease of access and utilization of aging and long-term care resources for both Library staff and the public and to promote programs and services of interest to seniors.

Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade

(Coordinated through the Miami-Dade County Health Department)

The library system works with the Consortium to fulfill its mission as a major catalyst for healthy living in Miami-Dade. Library staff participates in health fairs and special programs to provide information on resources for the community. Staff from the Consortium presents programs at the library to promote healthy lifestyles.

Davis Vision

www.davisvision.com

Davis Vision, Focus on America, is a worldwide community outreach effort that provides much needed vision care services to those in need. In 2010, the Library System teamed with Davis Vision to provide free vision screening to over 500 children in the community. Children were given vouchers for comprehensive eye exams at VisionWorks and were provided with free glasses. Library staff provided literacy programs and activities for those attending the screenings.

Diageo Foundation

www.diageo.com

The Library System is a supporter of Diageo's Learning "Skills for Life" Project held at the FIU Biscayne Bay campus. The Diageo Foundation funds this project to offer job and career training to County residents who are in need of career assistance. The "Skills for Life" project allows residents of Miami-Dade County the opportunity to receive extensive training on employment searching, budgeting, resume writing, and computer skills. The Library's role in this project is to provide information about library resources and to demonstrate how the Library can help the participants prepare for a career and find employment.

Greater Miami Jewish Federation

www.jewishmiami.org

The Greater Miami Jewish Federation acts collectively and responsibly to meet the needs and safeguard the freedoms of all Jewish people. The Federation works with the Library System to provide quality, cultural programming for all residents of the community, particularly story times and author programs.

Jackson Health Systems Mobile Clinic

www.jacksonhealth.org/home.asp

Library branches serve as a weekly stop for the Jackson primary care mobile van that provides medical care for members of the community.

Junior League of Miami

www.jlmiami.org

The mission of the Junior League of Miami is to promote voluntarism, develop the potential of women and improve communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. The Junior League concentrates its resources to make a significant impact on the community within the areas of homelessness, family violence, child health, child care/parent support and foster care. The Junior League has partnered with the library to establish a special reading program called Paws 2 Read. This program provides certified therapy dogs to assist timid readers overcome their shyness.

Miami Dade County Boot Camp

www.miamidade.gov/corrections/boot-camp.asp

The Boot Camp is a correctional facility of the Miami Dade County Corrections & Rehabilitation Department for juvenile offenders. The Mobile Library Service Unit partners with this group by providing services and approved materials to the detention center each week.

South Florida Mobile Workforce

The Mobile Workforce Assistance Centers aid citizens in finding employment, help create and update resumes, conduct on-site interviews and provide a range of testing and assessment services that they need to become job-ready. Library branches serve as a stop for the buses and library staff provides resources to assist the Workforce in accomplishing its goal.

The Miami Dade Reentry Taskforce

www.miamidade.gov/corrections/reentry-unit.asp

The Miami Dade Reentry Taskforce is a community wide collaboration of agencies and organizations providing re-entry services to ex-offenders as they return to the community. The library participates in “resource fairs” that allow the inmates to learn about programs and services that can benefit them. Library staff works with the staff of the Metro West Detention Center, to bring in trained volunteer tutors to work one on one with inmates to help with basic literacy skills.

University of Miami

www.um.edu

The library's Talking Books department is an exhibitor at an annual series of community health fairs hosted by UM DOCS and the UM Calder Library.

University of Miami Pediatric Mobile Clinic

pediatrics.med.miami.edu/community-outreach/pediatric-mobile-clinic

library branches serve as a weekly stop for the UM mobile clinic, which provides basic medical services for children throughout the community.